

**Introduced by Senator Ducheny**

February 23, 2006

---

An act to amend Section 1750.2 of, and to add Section 1750.4 to, the Business and Professions Code, relating to dentistry.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SB 1541, as introduced, Ducheny. Registered dental assistants: licensure.

Under existing law, the Dental Practice Act, the Dental Board of California is required to license a person as a registered orthodontic assistant, registered surgery assistant, or registered restorative assistant if the person satisfactorily completes specified courses approved by the board.

This bill would also require the board to license a person in those specialties if he or she completes a work experience pathway to licensure. The bill would authorize a dentist to train an employee for purposes of specialty licensure, subject to specified terms and conditions. The bill would also require the employee to comply with specified other requirements, including obtaining a passing score on the Dental Assisting National Board exam.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 1750.2 of the Business and Professions
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 1750.2. (a) On and after January 1, 2008, the board shall
- 4 license as a "registered orthodontic assistant," "registered surgery

1 assistant,” or “registered restorative assistant” any person who  
2 ~~submits~~ *does either of the following:*

3 (1) *Submits* written evidence of satisfactory completion of a  
4 course or courses approved by the board pursuant to subdivision  
5 (b) that qualifies him or her in one of these specialty areas of  
6 practice.

7 (2) *Completes a work experience pathway to licensure that*  
8 *meets the requirements set forth in Section 1750.4.*

9 (b) The board shall adopt regulations for the approval of  
10 ~~postsecondary~~ specialty registration courses in the specialty areas  
11 specified in this section. The board shall also adopt regulations  
12 for the approval and recognition of required prerequisite courses  
13 and core courses that teach basic dental science, when these  
14 courses are taught at secondary institutions, regional  
15 occupational centers, or through regional occupational programs.

16 The regulations shall define the minimum education and  
17 training requirements necessary to achieve proficiency in the  
18 procedures authorized for each specialty registration, taking into  
19 account the combinations of classroom and practical instruction,  
20 clinical training, and supervised work experience that are most  
21 likely to provide the greatest number of opportunities for  
22 improving dental assisting skills efficiently.

23 (c) The board may approve specialty registration courses  
24 referred to in this section prior to January 1, 2008, and the board  
25 shall recognize the completion of these approved courses prior to  
26 January 1, 2008, but no specialty registrations shall be issued  
27 prior to January 1, 2008.

28 (d) The board may approve a course for the specialty  
29 registration listed in subdivision (b) that does not include  
30 instruction in coronal polishing.

31 (e) The board may approve a course that only includes  
32 instruction in coronal polishing as specified in paragraph (8) of  
33 subdivision (b) of Section 1750.3.

34 (f) A person who holds a specialty registration pursuant to this  
35 section shall be subject to the continuing education requirements  
36 established by the board pursuant to Section 1645 and the  
37 renewal requirements of Article 6 (commencing with Section  
38 1715).

39 SEC. 2. Section 1750.4 is added to the Business and  
40 Professions Code, to read:

1 1750.4. (a) A dentist who holds a valid, active, and current  
2 license to practice dentistry under this chapter may train and  
3 educate his or her employee for the purpose of licensure in one of  
4 the specialty licensure categories set forth in Section 1750.2,  
5 subject to the following terms and conditions:

6 (1) On a form approved by the board, the dentist shall certify  
7 to the board all of the following:

8 (A) The specialty dental assistant category that the dentist will  
9 be training his or her employee in.

10 (B) That the education and training the dentist provides shall  
11 be in compliance with the regulations adopted by the board  
12 pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 1750.2.

13 (C) That all duties performed by the employee shall be done in  
14 the dentist's presence.

15 (2) The work experience pathway for the employee shall not  
16 exceed a term of 18 months, starting on the date that the board  
17 receives the form required pursuant to paragraph (1).

18 (3) Prior to beginning the employee's training, the dentist shall  
19 complete a teaching methodology course that is at least two  
20 hours long.

21 (4) The board may inspect the dentist's facilities and practice  
22 at any time to ensure compliance with regulations adopted by the  
23 board pursuant to Section 1750.2.

24 (5) The dentist shall certify in writing to the board that the  
25 employee has a minimum of 12 months of prior work experience  
26 as a dental assistant before that employee applies for licensure in  
27 one of the specialty areas specified in subdivision (a) of Section  
28 1750.2. The 12 months of required work experience may be  
29 obtained by working for multiple employers, provided that the  
30 certifying dentist provides written evidence to support that claim.  
31 The employee may begin a training program before he or she  
32 completes 12 months of work experience, but may not apply for  
33 licensure until that work experience is completed.

34 (6) Upon successful completion of the work experience  
35 pathway period, the dentist shall certify in writing that the  
36 employee is proficient in all procedures authorized for the  
37 specialty category for which the employee is seeking licensure.

38 (b) As a condition for licensure for specialty registration under  
39 Section 1750.2, an employee who completes a work experience  
40 pathway pursuant to this section shall do the following:

- 1     (1) Certify to the board that he or she has a minimum of 12
- 2     months of prior work experience as a dental assistant, subject to
- 3     the terms set forth in paragraph (5) of subdivision (a).
- 4     (2) Certify to the board that he or she is proficient in all
- 5     procedures authorized for the specialty category for which the
- 6     employee is seeking licensure.
- 7     (3) Obtain a passing score on the Dental Assisting National
- 8     Board (DANB) exam.

O